

RETIREMENT OF MR. JOHN L. SMITH

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, on February 27, 1998, the state of Illinois and our nation will lose a valuable public servant. After 23 years as the Director of the United States Small Business Administration's (SBA) Chicago District Office, John L. Smith is retiring. It is my honor to commend him on a distinguished career of service to our nation.

Mr. Smith began a 47-year public service career in 1951 with a 4 year stint in the United States Navy. Following his discharge, Mr. Smith attended the Robert Morris School in his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he received a degree in Business Administration.

In 1967, Mr. Smith began working in the civil service with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration where he worked as a loan specialist in several assignments throughout the East Coast. Prior to that, Mr. Smith had been the Director of Financial Assistance for the Business and Job Development Corporation in Pittsburgh.

In 1973, Mr. Smith came to Chicago to serve as the Regional Administrator for the Commerce Department's Office of Minority Business Enterprise. In that position, Mr. Smith admirably directed activities in 10 states and managed over \$5 million in grant and contract funds.

In 1975, Mr. Smith began his long tenure as Director of the SBA's Chicago District Office. Over the past 23 years, he has managed the Chicago Office and a smaller branch office in Springfield. Additionally, he has been responsible for overseeing both offices' SBA loans, management assistance, government contracting, and advocacy programs for small businesses across Illinois. On his watch, small businesses in Illinois have received several billion dollars worth of loans and federal contracts.

In addition to his professional successes, Mr. Smith and his wife have raised four adult children. John L. Smith has also worked to better his community and our nation through volunteering his time and abilities to organizations such as the American Heart Association, the Boy Scouts of America, the Kiwanis Club and the United Fund.

Without a doubt, the citizens and the economy of the state of Illinois have benefitted greatly from John L. Smith's able and dedicated leadership. He leaves behind a strong and proud record of accomplishment at the Small Business Administration, as well as a remarkable career of government service. I wish him good luck and God's speed in all of his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO DON TIBBETTS

• Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Don Tibbetts, "Dean of the New Hampshire State

House Press Corps" who recently retired after 24 years of news reporting on national and state politics for the Union Leader and the New Hampshire Sunday News.

Don has witnessed many historical events over his career, from the thrill of the first in the nation presidential primary to the comings and goings of countless Governors. He has endured seemingly endless hearings and press conferences, yet has reported on each of them with style, substance, and integrity.

In a state where people take their politics very seriously, Don was able to give the people of New Hampshire their daily diet of important facts about the events, votes, meetings, and rulings that impact their lives. What is remarkable about Don in this time of editorial journalism is the way Don gave his loyal readers the facts in an unbiased way and let them make their own judgments.

In the State House, Don was constantly on the lookout for news, churning out several stories each day. His "Under the State House Dome" column was a must read for anyone who wanted to be informed about the latest yet to break news and information about politics in New Hampshire.

Although Don is a lifelong member of the Fourth Estate, which often has a skeptical or even adversarial stance toward government officials, he always went the extra mile to listen to both sides of the story and reflect these views in his stories.

The only time he did not play it down the middle was when he was on the golf course, where he has been known to hit an occasional errant shot.

As someone who Don has covered for many years, I will miss him, and I know that his colleagues at the Union Leader and in the press corps will miss him too. The real questions is if Don will miss any of us. I wish both Don and Jane the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Those of us in government will greatly miss his reputation as an honest broker of the facts, a perceptive historian and judge of people, and for helping to keep the job of governing enjoyable. •

IN HONOR OF THE PALMIERIS' FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I would like to call to your attention a most momentous and joyful occasion. Theresa and Joseph Palmieri of Brooklyn, New York will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary on January 31, 1998.

Theresa and Joseph were wed at Saint Rosalie Catholic Church in Brooklyn, New York on January 31, 1948. The couple was introduced at a "Welcome Home" for Joseph after his return from service during World War II. Living and working on Long Island, New York for the past thirty-five years, the Palmieri family includes

daughters Jo Ann and Theresa, sons Paul and Joseph, and seven grandchildren.

In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death do us part . . ." seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity.

Mr. President, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the entire Palmieri family in recognizing the wonderful sense of achievement and happiness that marks the golden wedding anniversary of Joseph and Theresa Palmieri. •

THE TYRE LODGE MASONIC TEMPLE OF COLDWATER

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Tyre Lodge Masonic Temple in Coldwater, Michigan. On January 17, the lodge celebrated its 150th anniversary. To put this in perspective, this lodge was issued its charter 15 years before President Abraham Lincoln delivered the historic Gettysburg Address.

The Tyre Lodge has been a pillar of its community for many years. Volunteering their time, efforts and talents into an organization, Masons have consistently provided invaluable services to their community. The members of the lodge have always searched for new ways to provide opportunities for their fellow members and citizens of their local community. This strong commitment to helping other individuals is outstanding, and I commend each member of the association for all their tireless efforts.

On February 7, the lodge will be hosting a dinner and program to celebrate this achievement, and I would like to express my warmest wishes for a successful evening. Again, I would like to thank the members of the lodge for their dutiful dedication to the Coldwater community, and wish them the brightest of futures. •

TRIBUTE TO MARSHALL FLOYD

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to a teacher in New Mexico who is an excellent example of service and commitment to education and the students of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Marshall Floyd has been a teacher at Highland High School since 1953, a member of numerous educational related boards, and has received a wide variety of educational honors, including being the recipient of the Outstanding Biology Teacher of New Mexico by the National Association of Biology Teachers in 1974 and receiving the Science Teacher of the Year Citation from the New Mexico Science Teachers Association in 1981. In 1990, Albuquerque Public Schools named Highland High School's new science building after him